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09/840,817	04/24/2001	Erwin B. Bellers	US 010028	5944

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EXAMINER

LEE, RICHARD J

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 09/840,817  
Filing Date: April 24, 2001  
Appellant(s): BELLERS, ERWIN B.

**MAILED**  
JUN 16 2004  
Technology Center 2600

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William A. Munck  
For Appellant

**EXAMINER'S ANSWER**

This is in response to the appeal brief filed June 1, 2004.

**(1) *Real Party in Interest***

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

**(2) *Related Appeals and Interferences***

A statement identifying the related appeals and interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal is contained in the brief.

**(3) *Status of Claims***

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

**(4) *Status of Amendments After Final***

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

**(5) *Summary of Invention***

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

**(6) *Issues***

The appellant's statement of the issues in the brief is correct.

**(7) *Grouping of Claims***

Appellant's brief includes a statement that all the claims are grouped together and provides reasons as set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) and (c)(8).

**(8) *Claims Appealed***

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

**(9) Prior Art of Record**

de Haan et al, "True-Motion Estimation with 3-D Recursive Search Block Matching", IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology, Vol. 3, No. 5 (Oct. 5, 1993), pp. 368-379.

**(10) Grounds of Rejection**

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12-14, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by de Haan et al of record ("True-Motion Estimation with 3-D Recursive Search Block Matching).

De Haan et al discloses a 3-D recursive search block matching system, and the same high definition television receiver, for use in a receiver, a method and video enhancement mechanism for enhancing video information with spatio-temporal consistency, computer program product within a computer usable medium, and video information signal as claimed in claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12-14, 17, and 18, comprising the same input connection receiving video information and display on which enhanced images derived from the video information are displayed (see section I of page 368); a video enhancement mechanism for enhancing the video information with spatio-temporal consistency (see section IV, pages 370-371, section VI, pages 372-373, section VIII, pages 374-375); at least one enhancement unit (i.e., estimators (a and b),

Art Unit: 2613

spatial and temporal predictors, see section IV, pages 370-371) enhancing a characteristic other than position of a selected pixel region of video information utilizing at least one candidate enhancement vector of enhancement algorithms to generate an enhanced pixel region for each candidate enhancement vector, each of the enhanced pixel region equivalent to enhancement of the selected pixel region utilizing a respective candidate enhancement vector of enhancement algorithms (see section II, pages 368-369, section IV, pages 370-371); a selection unit computing an error (i.e., errors are assigned to candidate vectors using the SAD criterion of equation (6), see sections II and IV) for each the enhanced pixel region utilizing a bias towards spatio-temporal consistency of a respective enhanced pixel region with spatially adjacent pixel regions in a picture containing the selected pixel region and with a counterpart pixel region in one or more pictures successive with the picture containing the selected pixel region, the selection unit selecting an enhanced pixel region having a best enhancement for spatio-temporal consistency (i.e., a vector which minimizes the matching error is selected from the candidate set, thereby providing the selected enhanced pixel region having a best enhancement for spatio-temporal consistency, see Sections II, IV, and V); wherein the at least one candidate enhancement vector of enhancement algorithms is selected from enhancement vectors determined to produce a best enhancement for spatio-temporal consistency in enhancing pixel regions within a spatial and temporal neighborhood of the selected pixel region (i.e., a vector which minimizes the matching error is selected from the candidate set, thereby providing a selected candidate enhancement vector which produces a best enhancement for spatial-temporal consistency within a spatial and temporal neighborhood of the selected pixel region, see Sections II, IV, and V); and wherein the error is computed on a per-pixel region basis for each pixel region within the video information

and for each candidate enhancement vector for a respective pixel region (i.e., block matching and errors are assigned to candidate vectors using the SAD criterion of equation (6), see page 369, column 1, page 371).

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3, 7, 11, 15, 16, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over de Haan et al of record ("True-Motion Estimation with 3-D Recursive Search Block Matching).

De Haan et al discloses substantially the same high definition television receiver, for use in a receiver, a method and video enhancement mechanism for enhancing video information with spatio-temporal consistency, computer program product within a computer usable medium, and video information signal as above, further including adding penalty to the error as the bias and wherein the bias towards spatio-temporal consistency further comprises second penalty varying for each candidate enhancement vector (i.e., penalties are added to the error function related to the length of the difference vector between the candidate to be evaluated and some neighboring vectors, see section VI, pages 372-373).

De Haan et al does not particularly disclose though, first penalty varying based upon coefficients for each candidate vector as claimed in claims 3, 7, 11, 15, and 19. However, it is noted the variable C from equation (26) as shown at page 373 of De Haan corresponds to candidate vectors. And since the candidate vectors C comprise coefficients, it is therefore

Art Unit: 2613

considered obvious that the penalties that are added to the error function as shown in equation (26) also varies based upon coefficients for each candidate enhancement vector within the equation as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the De Haan et al reference in front of him/her and the general knowledge of penalty addition to the error of candidate vectors, would have had no difficulty in recognizing the coefficients present within the candidate vector C of equation (26) and that the penalties that are added to the error function as shown in equation (26) also varies based upon coefficients for each candidate enhancement vector within the equation for the same well known spatial and temporal smoothing purposes as claimed.

**(11) Response to Argument**

The appellant's analysis of the de Haan et al reference as shown at pages 5-7 of the Brief filed June 1, 2004 is greatly appreciated.

Regarding the appellant's arguments at pages 7-8 of the Brief filed June 1, 2004 concerning in general that "... de Haan teaches a method of compensating for motion in a frame rate conversion process by adjusting the position of pixels in intermediate fields. Furthermore, the de Haan reference does not disclose enhancement vectors of enhancement algorithms. Although de Haan uses candidate vectors, they are candidate motion vectors. These candidate vectors are used to find the best correlation between a block of pixels in the current field and a corresponding set in the previous field. As such, the vectors have nothing to do with enhancement, as defined in the Appellant's specification ... The motion estimator is not enhancing any characteristic of a pixel region; it is simply determining a positional relationship between fields ...", the Examiner respectfully disagrees. The spatial and temporal predictions of

Art Unit: 2613

de Haan et al (see sections II and IV) involve motion estimation through the use of block matchings where the minimum summed absolute differences between blocks are calculated to select the best candidate block (i.e., with a corresponding best candidate vector indicating the best displacement offset, see second sentence of Section IV of de Haan et al). And by providing the best candidate block through the minimum SAD calculations, de Haan et al is providing the best estimated block image and as such it is submitted again that de Haan et al provides the same enhancement unit (i.e., estimators (a and b), see Section IV) enhancing a characteristic other than position of a selected pixel region of video information utilizing at least one candidate enhancement vector of enhancement algorithms to generate an enhanced pixel region for each candidate enhancement vector, as claimed. It is further noted that de Haan et al is interested in providing smoothness of images through spatial and temporal predications by adding penalties to the error functions involved in block matching (see Section VI, pages 372-373). By smoothing the images, de Haan et al provides the same enhanced pixel region equivalent to enhancement of the selected pixel region utilizing a respective candidate enhancement vector of enhancement algorithms as claimed.

Regarding the appellant's arguments at pages 8-9 of the Brief filed June 1, 2004 concerning in general that "... The candidate vectors of the Appellant's invention are coefficients of enhancement algorithms, rather than displacement vectors describing a positional relation between subsequent fields ... However, the best vector chosen in the Appellant's invention contains coefficients for algorithms to enhance pixels in the current field ... The Appellants respectfully submit that de Haan is referring to motion vectors while, in contrast, the Appellants' claims are directed to enhancement vectors of enhancement algorithms ...", it is



Art Unit: 2613

submitted again that one skilled in the art would certainly have no difficulty in recognizing the coefficients present within the candidate vector C of equation (26) of de Haan et al and that the penalties that are added to the error function as shown in equation (26) also varies based upon coefficients for each candidate enhancement vectors within the equation. And since de Haan et al teaches the smoothing of images through spatial and temporal predictions by adding penalties to error functions involved in block matching (see Section VI, pages 372-373), de Haan et al provides the same enhanced pixel region equivalent to enhancement of the selected pixel region utilizing a respective candidate enhancement vector of enhancement algorithms as claimed.

Regarding the appellant's arguments at pages 9-12 of the Brief filed June 1, 2004 concerning the section 103 rejection on claims 3, 7, 11, 15, 16, 19, and 20, and in general that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. It is submitted that the burden falls to the appellant to rebut with objective evidence of non-obviousness, and mere argument does not overcome the prima facie case of obviousness (see *In re Palmer*, 172 USPQ 126 (CCPA 1971)). With the above in mind, it is submitted again that that one skilled in the art would certainly have no difficulty in recognizing the coefficients present within the candidate vector C of equation (26) of de Haan et al and that the penalties that are added to the error function as shown in equation (26) also varies based upon coefficients for each candidate enhancement vectors within the equation, thereby rendering obvious the claimed invention.

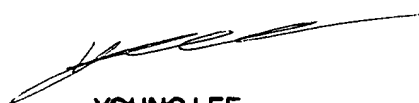
Art Unit: 2613

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.


Respectfully submitted,



Richard Lee  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2613




**YOUNG LEE**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Richard Lee/rl  
June 10, 2004 

Conferees

Chris Kelley  
Young Lee

  
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**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
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